

Atty. Dkt. No. 016887-1102

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomoharu TANAKA et al.

Title: NON-VOLATILE SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY
DEVICE AND MEMORY SYSTEM USING THE SAME

Appl. No.: 10/804,094

Filing Date: 03/19/2004

Examiner: Vu Anh Le

Art Unit: 2824

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(4), before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. However, if an Office Action or Notice of Allowance has been mailed, then the listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c)(1) or 37 CFR §1.97(d)(1). A Statement is provided.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application, a Japanese Office Action issued on June 3, 2005. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by the applicant's representative, as relevant to the claims in that counterpart application, the Japanese Patent Office stated as follows:

A person skilled in the art could easily arrive at the invention of Claim 1 of the subject application by referring to Figure 1 of Reference 2 [document B1 on accompanying form PTO/SB/08], and modifying the technology shown in Figure 1 of Reference 1 [document B2 on accompanying form PTO/SB/08] to have the structure which uses a verification completion signals to determine whether or not (the information) is ready to be written into memory.

As noted, the statements noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative, including of the Japanese Office Action (document B3 on accompanying form PTO/SB/08). The summary above of the statements in the Japanese Office Action should in no way be taken as an indication that Applicant agrees with the statements contained therein. The statement of relevance should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

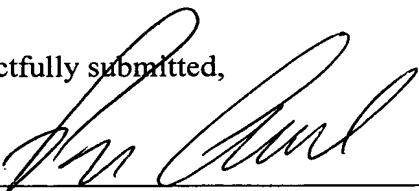
The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.704(d) that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

To the extent that the present submission is somehow deemed to be made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(1), the Commissioner is authorized to charge the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 14, 2005

By 

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: June 14, 2005 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/804,094
				Filing Date	03/19/2004
				First Named Inventor	Tomoharu TANAKA
				Group Art Unit	2824
				Examiner Name	Vu Anh Le
				Attorney Docket Number	016887-1102

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 JUN 14 2005
 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B1	JP	03-286497		Toshiba Corp	12-17-1991		Abstract
	B2	JP	64-38000			03-07-1989		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	B3	Japanese Office Action issued June 3, 2005	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.